

Michigan University on winning the national iOMe Challenge competition, which focused on solutions to make the U.S. retirement system solvent for future generations.

WMU's proposal was the collaborative effort of four students from the University's Lee Honors College—Sam Demorest, Lauren Hearit, Ashley Horvat, and Brad Kent—with the guidance and encouragement of WMU Professor Susan Hoffmann. The proposal submitted by the WMU team was one of 41 entries submitted by schools in 17 states for the opportunity to travel to Washington and present their ideas before Members of Congress. The iOMe Challenge asked college students across the country to think, analyze, and propose a solution addressing the issue of retirement for future generations. The WMU team analyzed every potential aspect of what life in retirement could be four decades from now and collaboratively put together a proposal that directly meets the challenges that lie ahead. The Western Michigan University team's project was selected by an independent blue-ribbon panel who judged based on content, style, economic soundness, and accessibility to young Americans.

Certainly there are a number of proposals for going about preserving the retirement system, and I have been deeply impressed by the recommendations of the team at Western Michigan. Their objective analysis of our current system and common retirement preparation practices, including each aspect's strengths and weaknesses, is sound and pragmatic. The adaptability within our current system allowed these students to provide cost cutting solutions that actually raised benefits for all Americans, while ensuring the system's long-term viability.

With a steadily aging population, significant reforms will need to be made to ensure the retirement system remains viable not only for today's retirees but generations to follow. To simply continue to kick this issue further down the road will only compound the problem for future American retirees. That is why this issue deserves constant attention from all Americans, especially younger generations who will be most greatly impacted. I commend these four students at Western Michigan University for their leadership in taking up this difficult issue, in order to show that our nation's future leaders will not be ignored when we discuss possible solutions regarding our future retirement problems.

Once again, congratulations to the team at Western Michigan University. You make your university, state, and nation very proud.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, provides for funding for the National World War II Museum Expansion in the

amount of \$10,000,000. This funding would be used to design and construct the U.S. Freedom Pavilion and its exhibitions which teach the importance of service to the nation, including the importance of service in the United States Armed Forces.

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, for Tulane University for Biosensors for Defense Application in the amount of \$2,500,000. This funding will leverage Tulane and Xavier Universities biosensor and risk assessment technologies (which provide real-time information about threats from bioterrorism and environmental polluters) program to develop biologically derived sensors for detecting pollutants and contaminants.

INTRODUCTION OF COLUMBIA RIVER RESTORATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Columbia River Restoration Act. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, supplying fishermen with jobs, serving as a recreational resource, and providing power to the Northwest. The river and its tributaries provide significant ecological and economic benefits to the Pacific Northwest and the entire country. Approximately 8 million people, including my constituents, inhabit the basin and depend on its resources for their health and survival. The 14 hydropower dams in the Columbia Basin provide over 75% of the power for the Northwest. Half of the 7.3 million acres of income producing farm and ranch land in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are irrigated with the Columbia River; sales from these exceed \$10 billion annually. Traditionally, the Columbia and its tributaries have been the largest salmon producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at up to 30 million fish. Recognizing the river's importance, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, designated the Columbia River as an Estuary of National Significance in 1995 and a Large Aquatic Ecosystem in 2006.

Sadly, after years of treating this great river like a machine, we know that the Columbia River is plagued by habitat loss and degraded with dangerous PCBs and other chemical pollutants that are detrimental to fish and wildlife, including thirteen species of salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened or endangered. Legacy contaminants such as DDT that were banned in the 1970s are still detected in juvenile Chinook salmon. According to EPA and tribal surveys, these contaminated fish are consumed in large quantities by tribal populations, putting them at risk. Other pesticides and contaminants, such as hormone disruptors from pharmaceutical and personal care products, have been found in the river and salmon and may impair salmon growth, health, and reproduction. These contaminants threaten not only the health of fish and wildlife, but the humans who depend on them.

I am proud that stakeholders in the Columbia Basin have come together in a partnership including states, tribal governments, public

and private entities, and key federal partners to look with a hundred-year vision toward the future of the river, and to clean it up and make it a sustainable resource for generations. The Lower Columbia River Partnership (LCREP), for example, works to protect the estuary's ecosystem and its species, reduce pollution, and provide information about the river to the public. The partnership has restored 2,600 acres of habitat, opened 41.7 miles of stream habitat, completed toxic and conventional pollutant water quality monitoring, and engaged in innovative public involvement and restoration efforts in the region. LCREP has worked with the EPA to complete a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to guide recovery efforts in the lower basin. EPA has also worked with stakeholders to develop a Toxics Reduction Action Plan to reduce toxics throughout the Basin. While there have been numerous studies and projects for toxics reduction and habitat restoration on the river, it is time for a broader, more comprehensive, and better funded effort.

The bill I am introducing today would authorize the EPA to work with LCREP, the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, Columbia Basin tribal governments, local governments, citizen groups, industry, and other Federal agencies to develop and implement a collaborative and comprehensive strategy to increase monitoring and reduce pollution in the basin. Through a new Columbia River Program Team located in EPA's Region 10 Oregon Operations Office, EPA will assist and support the implementation of the Toxics Action and Comprehensive Plans to reduce toxics, coordinate the major functions of the Federal government related to the plans, track progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the plans, and share this information with the public. The legislation authorizes \$40 million a year for this effort.

Restoration projects, toxic monitoring and other activities associated with the restoration effort will create between 700 and 900 jobs a year in the region for biologists, construction workers, and others. It will also enable the river to continue supporting jobs in the farming, hydropower, recreation and transportation industries.

I am pleased to be joined by some of my colleagues in Oregon and Washington in introducing this legislation. I look forward to working with stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest to move it quickly.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIE C. ROYAL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize Claudie C. Royal for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas, as well as his leadership in honoring Black History Month in Abilene, Texas. Although Claudie passed away in 2008, the Abilene community continues to carry on his memory and the initiatives he started.

Claudie was born on February 15, 1945 in Marlin, Texas, and raised in Abilene where he graduated from Woodson High School. After high school, Claudie married his high school